



News Release #3

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SUBJECT: Planning Commission Workshop on the Draft Shoreline Master Program Update

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Residents that live near rivers, streams, and lakes in unincorporated Lewis County are encouraged to attend a Lewis County Planning Commission workshop on the updated draft Shoreline Master Program. The intent of the workshop is to inform residents and the Planning Commission about the Shoreline Master Program update process and present a draft of the document.

Development along the County's larger rivers, streams, and lakes is currently regulated and managed by a Shoreline Master Program originally approved by the County in 1974 and last updated in 1998. Along with all other Cities and Counties that fall under the State's Shoreline Management Act of 1971, the County is required to update its shoreline regulations to reflect current State requirements. The Department of Ecology is the lead State agency in the update effort.

Two Planning Commission workshops will be held for the document. The first was September 22, 2015 at the Lewis County Courthouse Commissioners' Hearing Room in Chehalis. A second Planning Commission workshop will be held at the Mossyrock Community Center, 219 E. State Street, Mossyrock. The workshop is scheduled to begin shortly after 6:00 p.m. on October 13, 2015.

The draft updated Shoreline Master Program will apply only to future development in the shoreline jurisdiction and will include standards that permit reduced river, stream and lake buffers for water-dependent uses, and conditions that specify when public access may be required as part of future development. Standards for the integration of the County's existing critical areas regulations in the shoreline jurisdiction, as well as shoreline vegetation conservation and stabilization measures are also included in the draft.

For more information on the Shoreline Master Program update, please visit the County Shoreline Master Program project website at <http://lewiscountywa.gov/communitydevelopment/shoreline-master-program>. To see more information on the requirements for the Shoreline Master Program update, please visit the Department of Ecology's website at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelines/index.html.